

Foreign exchange students bring knowledge, cultural exposure and understanding to American students, schools and communities. I have been a proponent of cultural and educational exchanges and have supported most international exchange programs over the years—both those which bring foreign visitors here and those which send American students, scholars and practitioners abroad. I remain committed to these programs.

In 1996, I supported the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. This law states that as of November 30, 1996, IIRIRA prohibits any alien from receiving an F-1 student visa to attend a public elementary school, grades K-8, or a publicly-funded adult education program unless they pay the unsubsidized, per capita cost of their education in advance. My bill would not change current law relating to elementary schools or adult education. It would not pertain to students on formal, government-funded international exchanges. It would simply allow high school officials to waive the cost of education of high school-level foreign students in order to enroll an exchange student, should they wish to do so. I believe this has been an unintended consequence of IIRIRA.

Several cities have "Sister City" arrangements between American cities and cities in foreign countries. One valuable component of these arrangements is an exchange program for high school students enabling American youth to spend a year in a foreign high school while students from abroad spend a year in a high school here. No tuition is generally exchanged under the sister city agreement, but current U.S. law states that visitors to our country must pay the unsubsidized cost of their education, even though American students are exempted from the cost requirement.

Along the Alaska-Yukon, Alaska-British Columbia and U.S.-Mexican borders there are schools serving very remote communities on both sides of the border. After enactment of the 1996 law, Canadian or Mexican students were no longer eligible to enter the United States to attend the local public school even though governments and the local school districts agreed to enroll the students.

Many school districts prefer to enroll one or two exchange students a year. Reciprocal exchange agreements are beneficial and host families enjoy these students in their homes. American exchange students attending schools in Germany, for example, are not subjected to the same tuition requirements for their schooling, yet they gain an understanding of German history and culture and benefit from their travels. Currently, U.S. law requires foreign students to pay tuition before they arrive in the United States. The extra paper work, the up-front costs and the extra burden these requirements place on foreign students tend to undermine the purposes of cultural exchanges.

I remain mindful to past abuses of F-1 visas and am sympathetic to the burden that large enrollments of foreign students place on American public schools. My purpose in introducing this bill today is not to weaken the law as it currently reads, but to provide an outlet for our schools to give an educational opportunity for enrolling international exchange students.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 358

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Arizona [Mr. McCain] was added as a cosponsor of S. 358, a bill to provide for compassionate payments with regard to individuals with blood-clotting disorders, such as hemophilia, who contracted human immunodeficiency virus due to contaminated blood products, and for other purposes.

S. 852

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Arizona [Mr. McCain] was added as a cosponsor of S. 852, a bill to establish nationally uniform requirements regarding the titling and registration of salvage, non-repairable, and rebuilt vehicles.

S. 1459

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida [Mr. Mack] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 5-year extension of the credit for producing electricity from wind and closed-loop biomass.

S. 1464

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1464, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the research credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1482

At the request of Mr. COATS, the name of the Senator from Arizona [Mr. McCain] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1482, a bill to amend section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 to establish a prohibition on commercial distribution on the World Wide Web of material that is harmful to minors, and for other purposes.

S. 2154

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Illinois [Ms. Moseley-Braun] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2154, a bill to promote research to identify and evaluate the health effects of silicone breast implants, and to ensure that women and their doctors receive accurate information about such implants.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 97

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. Moynihan] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 97, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress concerning the human rights and humanitarian situa-

tion facing the women and girls of Afghanistan.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 105

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 105, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the culpability of Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the former Yugoslavia, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 189

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the names of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI] and the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 189, a resolution honoring the 150th anniversary of the United States Women's Rights Movement that was initiated by the 1848 Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, New York, and calling for a national celebration of women's rights in 1998.

AMENDMENT NO. 3199

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN his name was added as a cosponsor of Amendment No. 3199 proposed to S. 2168, an original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 108—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL HEART, LUNG, AND BLOOD INSTITUTE

Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. FRIST) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. CON. RES. 108

Whereas in 1948 the Congress, by its enactment of the National Heart Act and creation of the National Heart Institute, recognized the urgent need to establish a national program of research and demonstration projects relating to the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases of the heart and circulation;

Whereas the Congress has consistently and generously supported the purposes of the National Heart Act;

Whereas, since the creation of the National Heart Institute, the Congress changed the name of the Institute to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and expanded and clarified the Institute's role in advancing human understanding or awareness of diseases of the heart and blood vessels, diseases of the lungs, diseases of the blood, the use of blood and blood products, the management of blood resources, and sleep disorders through research, research training, demonstration projects, and public education activities;

Whereas June of 1998 marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the National Heart Institute which was established to lead a national effort to prevent, diagnose, and treat heart diseases;

Whereas research supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute has